

REMARKS

Claims 36-55 have been cancelled and claims 56-68 have been added to more clearly define the invention.

5 Claims 36-55 are objected to because of informalities. Claims 36-55 have been cancelled, thereby rendering their rejection moot.

Claims 36-39, 41, 43-46, 48-52 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Castellano (U.S. 3,609,647) in view of Osterbrock et al. (U.S. 5,637,000). Claims 40, 47 and 53-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being 10 unpatentable over Castellano (U.S. 3,609,647) and Osterbrock et al. (U.S. 5,637,000) and further in view of Marcou et al. (U.S. 5,594,398). Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Castellano (U.S. 3,609,647) and Osterbrock et al. (U.S. 5,637,000) and further in view of Heimann (U.S. 4,842,551). Claims 36-55 have been cancelled, thereby rendering their rejection moot.

15 The Examiner states that “Castellano discloses a modular electrical component [figure 1] comprising: ... a mounting strap [33] secured a rear cover of the base [figure 4] to a junction box [10]...” The Examiner goes on to state that “Castellano discloses the instant claimed invention except for the mounting strap has at least one ground terminal connection extends into the base unit for connection with the ground contact of the switch 20 and the mounting strap is secured to the external surface of the rear cover.” Finally, the Examiner states that “Osterbrock et.al. discloses an electrical wiring device with ground [s]trap shorting protection [figure 1] comprising a mounting strap [30] having a ground terminal connection [34] extending through a hole formed in a rear wall of a base unit [10] for connecting with a mating ground contact, and the mounting trap is secured to the 25 external surface of the rear cover [figures 1-2].”

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Independent claims 56 and 63 recite "An electrical wiring device component characterized by the absence of a mounting strap and being formed with opposite face and rear portions, said electrical wiring device component including electrically conductive projections extending from said rear portions, said rear portions capable of being inserted 5 into and nestling within said second cavity, said electrically conductive projections extending through said openings in said recessed wall to and into electrical contact with said receptacle surfaces when said electrical wiring device component is assembled with said central adaptor component."

Therefore, the independent claims require that a mounting strap not be used. As the 10 Examiner stated, both Castellano and Osterbrook require mounting straps. Therefore, Castellano and Osterbrook alone or in combination do not obviate Applicant's invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests early and favorable action by the Examiner. If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is 15 respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the amendment and/or Petition for Revival to Deposit Account No. 12-1185 of Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.

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Respectfully submitted,



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